

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 24-49 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-19, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30-39 and 43-49 have been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ichihashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,262). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Ichihashi is directed to an interactive television system. In Ichihashi's interactive television system, control data, including script and screen control information for presenting subsidiary image information relating to a main broadcast, is transmitted in a vertical blanking interval of a main broadcasting program. See col. 6, lines 27-32. A household interactive television receiver 3 receives a television wave broadcast by a broadcast station 1. See col. 6, lines 40-44. The reception script timely presents various specific additional information linked with the on-screen program. See col. 6, lines 54-60.

According to an example disclosed by Ichihashi, additional information for a live golf program, such as ranks, individual scores and course layout, is presented to a viewer based on his manipulation of a television remote controller 308. See col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 5. Ichihashi discloses that, by specific key input operation of the remote controller 308, information registered in a registration setting unit of a ROM device control may be automatically dialed to a line connection destination (such as a server 4)

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as the transmission source. See col. 8, line 62 – col. 9, line 3. Ichihashi also discloses that an information provider/service provider facility 45 receives process instructions to a response from the interactive TV 3 from network service 5, or sends back a response result of the interactive TV 3 to the network service 5. See col. 9, lines 29-34.

Applicant respectfully submits that according to a feature of the present invention, a user is able to register a program which is of interest to him, and later retrieve information relating to the program of interest using a device other than a device by which he originally viewed the program. Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking in Ichihashi. Applicant submits that Ichihashi does not provide for the registering of programs of interest. Instead, Ichihashi provides additional information regarding a program to the interactive television 3 almost immediately upon making a request for the information.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi fails to disclose or suggest storing in a database, by an information management apparatus or by an external device, identifying data transmitted to the information management apparatus, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data, and enables identification of information related to selected information and transmission of related information to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest storing in a database, by an information management apparatus or by an external device, information related to selected information, where the database associates at

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least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with information related to the selected information, and enables identification of information related to the selected information and transmission of the related information to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 2.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest storing in a database, called data, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier with called data, and enables identification of at least one of reference data added information, reference data, and related data, and transmission of at least one of reference data added information, reference data, and related data to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 6.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest storing in a database, by an information management apparatus or an external device, identifying data transmitted to the information management apparatus, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data, and enables identifying data corresponding to accessed information to be transmitted from either an information management apparatus or an external device to an information providing apparatus, and reference data added information or reference data corresponding to the identifying data to be transmitted from the information providing apparatus to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 7.

Ichihashi is also asserted to fail to disclose (or suggest) storing in a database, by an information management apparatus or an external device, information related to

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selected information, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with information related to selected information, and enables identification of at least one of reference data added information, reference data, and related data, and transmits at least one of the reference data added information, reference data, and related data to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest storing in a database, by an information management apparatus or an external device, identifying data transmitted to the information management apparatus, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data, and enables identification of at least one of reference data added information, reference data, and related data, and transmits at least one of the reference data added information, reference data, and related data to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 9.

It is further submitted that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest an information transmission device that transmits identifying data that distinctly identifies reference data added information and reference data, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 18, an identifying data addition device that adds identifying data that distinctly identifies reference data added information and reference data, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 19, or a data sending device that sends identifying data that distinctly identifies predetermined information designated by an information recipient and reference data, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 22.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest a data management device that includes a database that associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with at least one of identifying data, reference data added information, reference data, and related data, where the database enables identification of at least one of reference data added information, reference data, and related data, and transmits at least one of the reference data added information, reference data, and related data, to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 28 and 31.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest an information management apparatus that receives information designated for registration, and stores the information designated for registration in a database that associates information designated for registration with at least one of a code particular to an information receiving device, a code particular to a registered information transmission device, and with a code particular to a person making a registration designation, where the database enables identification of the information designated for registration and transmission of the information designated for registration to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 32.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest an information management apparatus that receives identifying data, and stores the identifying data in a database that associates information designated for registration with at least one of a code particular to an information receiving device, a code particular to a registered information transmission device, and a code particular to a

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person making a registration designation, where the database enables identification of information corresponding to the identifying data and transmits the information corresponding to the identifying data to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 33-37 and 44-46.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest storing in a database, by an information management apparatus, identifying data transmitted to the information management apparatus, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data, and transmits information corresponding to the identifying data, using the database, from the information management apparatus to a communications terminal, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 47.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest storing transmitted identifying data in a database, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with information corresponding to the identifying data, and transmitting information corresponding to the identifying data, using the database, from the information management apparatus to a communications terminal, as recited in independent claim 48.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ichihashi also fails to disclose or suggest an information management apparatus that receives identifying data that identifies selected predetermined information and stores the identifying data in a database, where the database associates at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data and enables identification of information corresponding to

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the identifying data and transmits the information corresponding to the identifying data to a communications terminal.

For at least the above-discussed reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of independent claims 1, 2, 6-9, 18, 19, 22, 28; 31-37 and 44-49 is improper, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Dependent claims 3-5, 10-17, 20, 21, 24-27, 29, 30 and 38-43 are submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth with respect to the independent claims, as discussed above.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

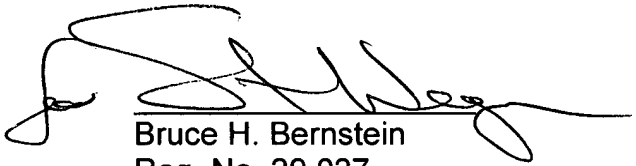
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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